

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  IES UTILITIES INC. AND INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY	DOCKET NO. WRU-01-46-150
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**ORDER GRANTING WAIVER**

(Issued October 5, 2001)

On August 22, 2001, an amendment to Utilities Board (Board) subrule 199 IAC 19.10(3) was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, Volume XXIV, No. 4, p. 296. The amendment required rate-regulated natural gas utilities to prorate price changes billed to customers. The amendment is to become effective on November 1, 2001. The Board delayed the effective date to provide additional time for the utilities to modify their billing systems to accommodate the new requirement. In the preamble of the "Adopted and Filed," the Board stated that a utility could ask for waiver of the November 1, 2001, implementation date if necessary.

On September 25, 2001, IES Utilities Inc. (IES) and Interstate Power Company (Interstate) filed a request to waive the November 1, 2001, date for implementing the proration requirements. IES and Interstate indicate that they are consolidating their billing systems into a single process by implementing the Interstate process in the IES service territory. The two companies request an extension of the implementation deadline until January 1, 2002.

The Board finds the request for a waiver of the implementation date reasonable and will grant the extension. The Board finds that the waiver requirements of 199 IAC 1.3 have been met since it would be an undue hardship for the companies to consolidate their systems by November 1, 2001, and no person will be prejudiced since the implementation will only be delayed. The Board understands that the consolidation and implementation of new billing systems is a complex process and the Board recognized in the "Adopted and Filed" that an extension might be necessary.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

IES Utilities Inc. and Interstate Power Company's waiver request filed September 25, 2001, to delay the November 1 filing date, is granted until January 1, 2002, to implement the proration requirements of 199 IAC 19.10(3).

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2001.